

A New Egg-Parasite of the Taro Leafhopper

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S
TETRATICHINAE

Ootetrastichus megameli n. sp.

Female.—Length about 1 mm. Color as seen in balsam mounts light brown, thorax and apical abdominal tergites infuscated, antennae and legs pale brown (except last tarsal segment which is fuscous). In pinned specimens the entire thorax, the apical half of the abdomen and the head except the mandibles and cheeks are metallic green; the basal half of abdomen except along the margins of the tergites, the mandibles and apical half of cheeks, parts of the face, and the legs except tips of tarsi are dark to light brown; the antennae fuscous. Generally smooth and shining or very finely microscopically reticulate with fine pin punctures at insertion points of fine hairy clothing. Head somewhat wider than the thorax, the face and abdomen collapsing after death, the cheeks a little over three-fourths as long as the eyes and nearly as wide as long, genal suture distinct, running from the base of the mandibles to the lower corner of the eyes, the post-orbital area wide and forming with the post-sutural part of the cheeks in side view of the head a broadly lenticular area, the inner margin of which is more convexly curved than the occipital margin; eyes apparently a little longer than wide and slightly emarginate on inner margin, the outer third passing over on to the occipital surface; vertex broad or as wide as the whole head at the lower corner of the eyes; ocelli in a very obtuse triangle, the posterior pair somewhat about as far from the eye margins as from each other; mandibles short and broad at apex, almost as wide there as at the base with two acutely pointed and one bluntly pointed teeth; antennae inserted a little above the line connecting the lower corners of the eyes, scape reaching to the ocelli after shrinkage of the head, compressed, about four times as long as wide excluding the radicle, pedicel more than one half as long as scape and considerably wider at apex than the following segments, ring joints three transverse and more than three times as wide as long, first funicle joint five to six times as long as thick and somewhat longer than either the second or third, which are subequal, the third funicle joint and the club considerably thicker than preceding funicle joints, the club reaching its greatest thickness in the second member, the third (division from second not clearly indicated) pointed at apex, with a well defined nipple; together they about equal in length the last two funicle joints combined, funicle and club with numerous long bristles, the scape and pedicel with a few smaller bristles. Pronotum with a row of fine hairs along its posterior margin; mesoscutum with median and lateral pairs of hairs, the parapsides each with a single bristle-like hair near posterior margin, sulci of scutellum very distinct, the submedian pair parallel, two pairs of blackish bristles present on scutellum outside submedian sulci, anterior pair behind middle and other pair near apex. Wings when closed reaching beyond apex of ovipositor, front pair fairly wide, broadly rounded at apex, the marginal cilia longest on posterior margin apically and even here not much longer than stigmal vein, marginal vein considerably longer than submarginal and provided with about twelve bristle-like hairs which are about as long as the cilia on the posterior margin, the submarginal with two bristle-like hairs, costal cell narrow and bare except for two or three fine cilia near its apex which are like the other discal cilia. Hind wings narrow, the cilia on the posterior margin

exceeding the greatest width of the disc, those on the anterior margin not more than a third as long; discal ciliation distinct except in the basal area opposite the submarginal vein. Abdomen a little longer than the thorax and head combined; the ovipositor sheaths slightly protruded, rather stout and tapering to apex; sides of the abdomen and apical fourth of the dorsum set with fairly numerous pale colored hairs arranged in transverse rows near hind margin of segments, the vibrissal plates of the last segment each with one long black seta directed obliquely outward. Legs normally long and slender.

Manila and Los Banos, Philippine Islands, 1931 and 1938. Reared from eggs of *Megamelus proserpina*. Type in collection of Board of Agriculture & Forestry, Honolulu.